
By: **Delegate Rosenberg**
Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2003
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 4, 2003

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Mental Health - Early Childhood Mental Health Services - Pilot Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Early Childhood Mental Health Services Pilot
4 Program; requiring the pilot program to provide mental health screening and
5 consultation for certain children; specifying that the pilot program may include
6 formal training for child care providers, therapeutic nursery programs, family
7 support initiatives, crisis intervention services, certain recruiting programs, and
8 certain mental health consultation; requiring certain agencies to submit a
9 certain report; making this Act subject to a certain contingency; providing for
10 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Early Childhood
11 Mental Health Services Pilot Program.

12 BY adding to
13 Article - Health - General
14 Section 10-1501 through 10-1503, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle
15 "Subtitle 15. Early Childhood Mental Health Services Pilot Program"
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

18 Preamble

19 WHEREAS, The General Assembly has identified as a priority the development
20 of strategies to prepare children to enter school ready to learn; and

21 WHEREAS, Recent neurological research strongly supports the proposition that
22 young children's social and emotional development before they enter school is an
23 essential foundation to young children's learning skills and later school success; and

1 WHEREAS, The National Academy of Sciences has concluded that enhancement
2 of social and emotional development is as important in early childhood as
3 enhancement of linguistic and cognitive competence and has recommended that
4 resources similar to those focused on literacy and numerical skills should be devoted
5 to promoting young children's social and emotional development; and

6 WHEREAS, Few early childhood programs have sufficient capacity to address
7 the emotional and social developmental needs of eligible children and their families
8 with prevention and early intervention services; and

9 WHEREAS, Various early childhood mental health initiatives, such as those in
10 Anne Arundel County and Montgomery County, and services provided throughout the
11 State by the Abilities Network have shown very promising results for young children
12 and their families; and

13 WHEREAS, There will be significant cost savings in future years in the areas of
14 child welfare placements, juvenile justice placements, special education placements,
15 and psychiatric residential treatment centers; now, therefore,

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article - Health - General**

19 **SUBTITLE 15. EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PILOT PROGRAM.**

20 10-1501.

21 **THERE IS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PILOT PROGRAM**
22 **IN BALTIMORE CITY AND THE EASTERN SHORE.**

23 10-1502.

24 (A) **THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING AND**
25 **CONSULTATION SERVICES:**

26 (1) **FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 6 YEARS WHO ARE IN EARLY**
27 **CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS OR IN LICENSED OR REGISTERED CHILD CARE FACILITIES;**
28 **AND**

29 (2) **TO LICENSED OR REGISTERED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.**

30 (B) **THE PILOT PROGRAM MAY INCLUDE:**

31 (1) **FORMAL TRAINING OF CHILD CARE PROVIDERS IN THE SOCIAL AND**
32 **EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD;**

33 (2) **MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS;**

1 (3) MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION TO MEET THE INDIVIDUAL NEEDS
2 OF A CHILD AND FAMILY PROVIDED AT THE CHILD CARE SITE OR IN THE FAMILY'S
3 HOME;

4 (4) FAMILY SUPPORT INITIATIVES;

5 (5) CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES;

6 (6) THERAPEUTIC NURSERY PROGRAMS; AND

7 (7) PROGRAMS TO RECRUIT AND TRAIN EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL
8 HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HIGHER EDUCATION
9 INSTITUTIONS IN THE STATE.

10 10-1503.

11 ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2005, THE CHILD CARE ADMINISTRATION, IN
12 COLLABORATION WITH THE MENTAL HYGIENE ADMINISTRATION, THE STATE
13 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH,
14 AND FAMILIES, SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE
15 WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT
16 EVALUATES THE PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE AND
17 COMPARABLE PROGRAMS AS APPLICABLE.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is contingent
19 on the receipt of sufficient federal funds or funds from any other private or public
20 source, including the continued receipt of funds from sources that funded the pilot
21 program in Baltimore City and the Eastern Shore prior to July 1, 2003. If the Child
22 Care Administration receives the funding specified in this section, it shall forward a
23 notice of the receipt of the funding within 5 days of receipt to the Department of
24 Legislative Services, 90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991.

25 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 2 of
26 this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a
27 period of 4 years and 3 months and, at the end of December 31, 2007, with no further
28 action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further
29 force and effect.